

Sub 01
C1
18 (Twice Amended) A self-adhering surface covering comprising:

a substrate;

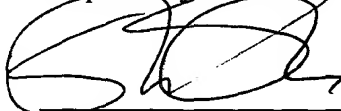
a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer disposed on the substrate and having an adhesive surface distal from the substrate, the adhesive layer comprising a substantially non-stringing adhesive; and

a barrier layer disposed substantially on and covering between about 1% to about 10% of the adhesive surface, wherein the barrier layer comprises substantially non-adhesive particles exhibiting a crush resistance of at least about 10 psi, and the substantially non-adhesive particles are non-hollow.

Sub 02
C2
55. (NEW) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the non-adhesive particles are

selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, barium carbonate, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, aluminum sulfate, molybdenum disulfide, titanium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, silica, magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, ferrous oxide, ferric oxide, cured rubbers, ebonite, resins, and combinations thereof, wherein the substantially non-adhesive particles exhibit a crush resistance of at least about 10 psi.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Schmid

Registration No. 39,358

11/18/02

Date

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC

P.O. Box 7037

Atlanta, GA 30357-0037

(404) 962-7539 (Telephone)

(404) 870-8234 (Facsimile)

EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee," in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 18, 2002
Express Mail No. EL 948642860 US

Cheryl West